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'Bury me beside them and then we'll be four'
Abdullah Kurdi
metroNEWS

The little boy who made the world 'wake up'

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

Alan Kurdi, 2012–2015

Three-year-old Alan Kurdi was excited to go on a boat ride.

The toddler, who was always giggling, was especially delighted when a mist of water sprayed his face on the boat that promised to smuggle about a dozen Syrian refugees living in Turkey, including his family, to Greece, which was to be the next stop for the Kurdis in their futile attempt to seek refuge with family in Canada.

"Alan was laughing his head off and he said, 'Oh, that's cold,'" his aunt Tima Kurdi recounted from a conversation with the youngster's father, her brother Abdullah. She lives in Coquitlam, B.C.

The next morning, the world woke up to a photo of Alan's lifeless body washed up on a Turkish beach. A wave hit the boat, causing it to flip over in a disaster that killed at least 12 people, including Alan's five-year-old brother Ghalib and his 26-year-old mother Rehan. His father Abdullah survived.

Splashed on front pages and screens around the world, the image of the young boy prompted cries for more action on the crisis. Canadian leaders interrupted their campaigns to address the tragedy and Alan's connection to Canada.

Alan and his brother were born in Kobani, a Syrian town on the Turkish border, their aunt Tima told reporters at her suburban home, where she was hoping her family would live if they were granted refugee status.

Tima, a hairdresser, has been in Canada since 1992. Her family owns land in Kobani, where they grow olive trees and relatives gather every summer. It was there that Abdullah, a barber, first met Rehan, a seamstress, when he was helping tend the trees.

Alan Kurdi THE CANADIAN PRESS

The pair were married and lived in Damascus before eventually moving back to Kobani.

It's not clear exactly when the family fled to Turkey, but in a letter to Chris Alexander, Canada's citizenship and immigration minister, Tima hints at a treacherous journey where her family encountered rebels. She called their situation desperate and wrote it was impossible for them to return to Syria to get the documents Canada requires to accept refugees.

In the meantime, they lived with another Syrian family in Turkey, with Tima sending money to pay the bills. Abdullah did "everything in his power" to make enough money to feed his family, doing his best to get into construction work.

Tima last saw her nephews on a trip to Turkey in 2014. Alan was a happy baby, always giggling in the background when Tima spoke to her relatives on the phone. His favourite food was bananas, and the week before they left on the boat, he asked his aunt to buy him a bicycle. He was curious to know if there were lots of toys in Greece.

Tima said the family wants the world to take action.

"That's what Abdullah said to me: 'It's OK, it has to be my kids and my wife to wake up the world. It's OK. So maybe the others will be safe … it's written to happen.'"

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Syrian refugee crisis
6 pages of coverage inside

- **Syrian community demanding action, pg. 4**
- **World notices Canada's role in tragedy, pg. 8**
- **What you can do to help, pg. 13**

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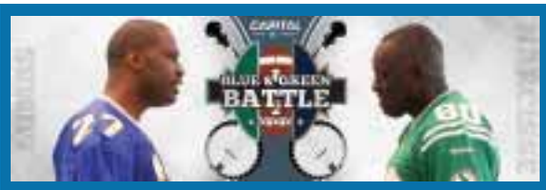

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Metro will not be publishing on Monday

The Mail Lady makes statement

DOCUMENTARY

Film shows role of carriers for seniors and shut-ins

Donna Maxwell
For Metro | Winnipeg

Former Winnipeg mail carrier Susan Green and the late Walter Rygiel in a scene from The Mail Lady. HANDOUT

It's hard to believe someone who spent the majority of her working life as a door-to-door mail carrier would make perhaps her most important delivery after she'd hung up her mailbag.

But that's what Susan Green has done with the message in The Mail Lady, which premiered Thursday night at the Filipino Hall in North Point Douglas.

It's a documentary short by Kirby Hammond that tells the touching story of mail carrier Green and Walter Rygiel, an elderly man on her route that she not only befriends but ultimately embraces as family. It also delivers, in 17 minutes, the important role mail carriers play in the lives of seniors and shut-ins.

"This all happened before the shoe dropped for door-to-door mail delivery. It was sometime in the midst of editing this film that word came down that door-to-door delivery was going to be killed," Hammond said.

"It went from being a very just beautiful story of friendship and compassion and this selflessness by this mail carrier, to also become a political film that really exemplifies what we are going to lose with the end of door-to-door delivery."

> **"It went from being a very just beautiful story of friendship and compassion and this selflessness by this mail carrier, to also become a political film ...**
> Kirby Hammond, filmmaker

Hammond, an award-winning filmmaker, shot the documentary eight years ago. Green had gone from looking out for Walter on her daily route — something she did for many she delivered mail to in North Point Douglas — to caring for him in his home and eventually caring for him in a nursing home.

Hammond filmed Green and Walter interacting over two years and then, as often is the case, the film sat.

"This film was kind of sitting in limbo for the longest while and some years went by and it was just one that was gnawing at me because it was such a beautiful story and I hadn't really found the right home for it," Hammond said.

Walter died in 2009 and there were times Hammond thought the film might have died along with him.

But in 2013, when the Conservative government announced it would be phasing out door-to-door delivery through Canada Post in urban centres, his heartwarming film had new meaning.

For Green, news the film had been dusted off the shelf brought old emotions to the fore. She watched a screening with Hammond and a box of tissues.

Her relationship with Walter began with her doing things like bringing him stamps, then the next day taking the bills he'd placed them on and paying them for him.

When a couple of days passed and Walter wasn't waiting to greet her, she knew something was wrong. She called 911 and responders found him at the bottom of his basement stairs.

After a stay in hospital, where Green visited him, staff asked him for a contact person.

"He just pointed to me and he says, 'Well, there she is,' because, you know, he had nobody else," Green said.

Walter became family, and sat through many Christmas dinners with the Greens over a 10-year span.

Green no longer delivers mail — she moved into the processing plant, but misses dearly the people she spent time with every day.

She knows first-hand the value of the door-to-door carriers and is thrilled Hammond's film is finally coming out.

And if the film moves anyone, she gives the credit to Hammond, and Walter, of course.

"I think Walter was the one that made it all happen for all of us. He was a pretty special person, quite a character."

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Local Syrian calls on Feds to step up

MIDDLE EAST

Photo of drowned boy punctuates refugee crisis

Dave Baxter
Metro | Winnipeg

A local member of the Syrian community says the disturbing image of a dead boy who drowned while his family was fleeing Syria is a reminder of how much more the Canadian government should be doing to help Middle Eastern refugees.

The widely shared picture released Wednesday shows three-year-old Alan Kurdi drowned and face down on the shores of a Turkish resort town.

His family was trying to reach the Greek island of Kos when their boat capsized. His brother and mother also died.

It had been reported the boy's family had tried to get into Canada but their refugee application was rejected in June; Conservative leader Stephen Harper denies the family had applied to get into the country.

"It is sad the world has to see horrible images like this in order to act," said Tarek Habash, of the Syrian Assembly of Manitoba.

Canada must start allowing more refugees into the country, and speed up the process for them to get in, said Habash.

"Other countries with far less resources have taken in far more refugees," said Habash.

Habash knows Syrian families in Winnipeg who are working to privately sponsor loved ones to come to Canada, but said the Canadian government is making that process far too difficult.

"It can take one to two years after applying, but there isn't time to wait. These people are often fleeing their homes with nothing more than the clothes on their back."

Habash is also concerned the Harper government will try to fix the problem by stepping up the military fight against ISIL.

"That will not be the solution. This crisis started before the rise of ISIL, and there are refugees fleeing parts of the country not ruled by ISIL."

Habash is calling on Canadian citizens to pressure their local MPs for changes that will allow more refugees to enter Canada.

CHARITY ERIC FEHR DONATES CASH FROM KIDS BOOK TO RED CROSS Current Pittsburgh Penguin and former Winnipeg Jet Eric Fehr was in town on Thursday signing copies of the children's book, The Bullied Dozer, which he co-authored along with Pamela Duncan Edwards. Fehr has donated $10,000 from the sale of the book to the Canadian Red Cross. DAVE BAXTER/METRO

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IN BRIEF

3 fentanyl overdoses reported in East Kildonan

Winnipeg Police are again warning the public of the dangers of the drug fentanyl after three people overdosed Wednesday night.

Police were called to the East Kildonan area by a woman who had ingested fentanyl with a male companion. The male collapsed and the woman called 911. She too then collapsed.

During investigation police determined a third male had taken fentanyl and when police went to check on him they discovered he needed medical assistance. He was taken to hospital.

All three are expected to recover. METRO

Police investigate downtown mailbox thefts

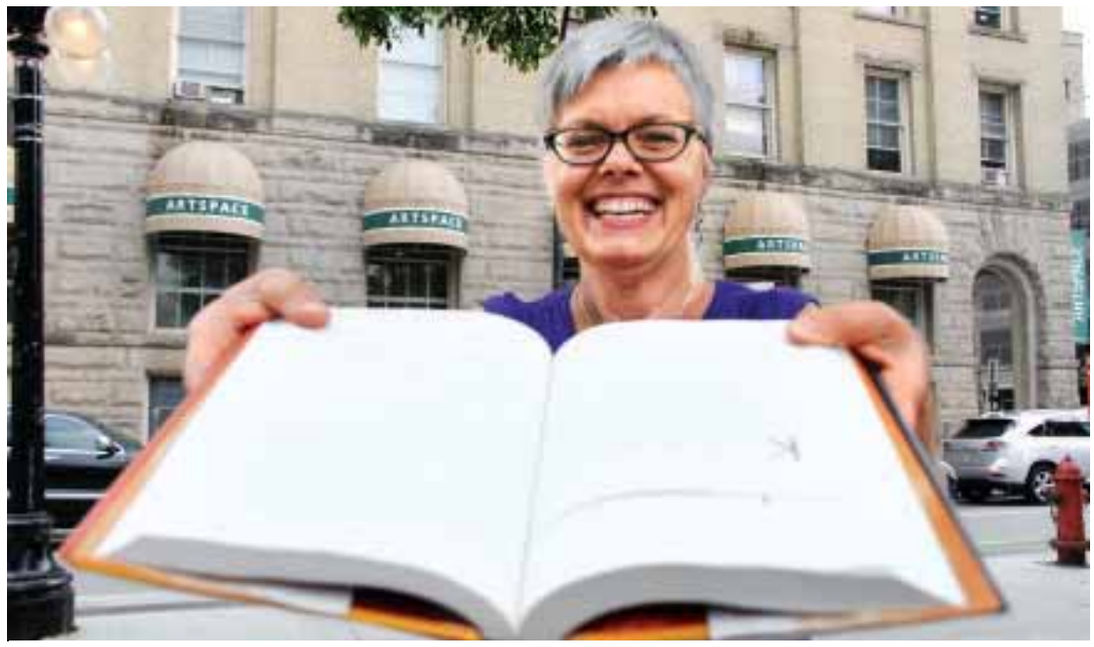
A number of mailboxes in downtown Winnipeg have been broken into recently, and police have released a picture of a person of interest in the investigation.

Police are investigating nearly a dozen reports of mailboxes that have been broken into recently throughout the downtown.

In each incident, a man was able to gain access to a vestibule area before trying to pry open the mailboxes and steal mail.

Damage is estimated to be more than $11,000 and anyone that can identify the man in the picture is asked to call Winnipeg police. METRO

Person of interest WPS/HANDOUT



2015 director Charlene Diehl proudly shows off one of the books that will be showcased at this year's THIN AIR. DAVE BAXTER/METRO

Event to celebrate the written word

FESTIVAL

THIN AIR runs from Sept. 18-26 and features 40 books

Dave Baxter
Metro | Winnipeg

For the 19th year in a row the THIN AIR festival will bring books, readers and writers together in Winnipeg.

THIN AIR 2015 runs from Sept. 18-26, and will see events take place all over the city that celebrate writing and reading, with many of the events involving authors reading their own work to the crowd.

"We bring in writers from all over Canada, and there's quite a lot of locals and a couple of international guests," said THIN AIR 2015 director Charlene Diehl.

"So we have a lot of public events all over the city with the authors, and we are celebrating great writing.

"We're basically a place for readers to come and get excited."

Diehl said people who don't typically take part in literary clubs are often unsure about THIN AIR, but if they do try it they have a good time.

> **We're basically a place for readers to come and get excited.**
> Charlene Diehl, THIN AIR 2015 director

"Most adults I talk to just can't really understand what people do at these things. So I always say 'it's how great it was when your parents read to you when you were a kid, but the content is mature'.

"And sometimes the content is very mature. A lot of it is very hard hitting and topical in many ways "

The event is a unique way for writers to have first-hand contact with readers, said Diehl.

"Unlike music this is an art form where the maker and the receiver are really quite far apart. So we're doing as much as we can to break down the barriers, and make it informal but not dumbed down."

THIN AIR 2015 will feature about 40 books, and a full list of events and locations can be found at thinairwinnipeg.ca.

ROADS

Work starts on highway intersection

The province announced Thursday that construction is now underway on a new interchange at the intersection of Hwy. 59 and the Perimeter Highway.

The interchange will increase safety for motorists, improve traffic flows and help ensure Manitoba's key infrastructure continues to support its growing economy, said Premier Greg Selinger in a statement.

"Manitoba's economy is growing and investments in our transportation infrastructure will help keep it on track and continue creating more jobs," said Selinger.

"This new interchange will make travel faster and safer for families and businesses."

The $204-million contract was awarded to Flatiron Construction Canada Ltd. after a competitive bidding process, and Selinger said the project is expected to create 2,320 jobs, and be completed by the fall of 2018.

> **This new interchange will make travel faster and safer for families and businesses.**
> Premier Greg Selinger

During construction at least four lanes of Hwy. 59 and at least two lanes of the Perimeter Hwy will remain open.

"Investments in our provincial road and bridge infrastructure provide for improved and more productive pathways for those in the trucking industry," said Terry Shaw, the executive director of the Manitoba Trucking Association. DAVE BAXTER/METRO

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FIRST NATIONS

Former TV reporter elected grand chief

Sheila North Wilson METRO FILE

First Nations leaders in northern Manitoba have elected a new grand chief.

Former television reporter Sheila North Wilson has been voted the new Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak grand chief.

Chiefs and councillors of 30 First Nations voted earlier this week in Nelson House.

North Wilson, of Bunibonibee Cree Nation, beat William Elvis Thomas of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation, in a second ballot after Tyler Duncan of Norway House Cree Nation withdrew.

Incumbent David Harper, who is chief of the Garden Hill Cree Nation, finished last after a first ballot of voting; he was seeking a third term.

North Wilson was on leave from her job at CTV Winnipeg.

She also worked for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Premier Greg Selinger said Thursday he supports the federal NDP's campaign promise to expand the Canada Pension Plan.
SHANE GIBSON/METRO FILE

NDP pension plan backed by premier

ELECTION PROMISE

Federal party would give seniors more security, says Selinger

Manitoba NDP Premier Greg Selinger says he supports the federal party's election promise to expand the Canada Pension Plan.

Selinger says current benefits are not high enough and should be doubled or more through slow and gradual increases.

Federal leader Tom Mulcair has promised that an NDP government would convene a first ministers meeting within six months of taking office to discuss expanding the Canada and Quebec pension plans.

The federal Conservative government has opposed the idea, because it would require higher premiums for workers and employers.

Selinger says increasing the pension plan would give seniors more security and reduce the need for the Guaranteed Income Supplement given to low-income seniors.

Some provinces are considering setting up their own pension plans, but Selinger says a national approach is best because it would cover workers who move between provinces.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Woman sexually assaulted on Pembina Highway

Police are investigating after a woman was sexually assaulted on Pembina Highway on Sunday.

The man asked if she wanted to go for a ride in his vehicle, she said no, and that's when he inappropriately grabbed her. The man took off in his vehicle and the victim was not injured. The suspect is described as a white male, between six-foot-one and six-foot-three, and 180-200 pounds. METRO

Police search for predator after Furby Street incident

Police are looking for a man they say followed a woman into an apartment on Furby Street Wednesday, and sexually assaulted her.

The suspect is black, in his early 20s, and approximately five-foot-five. He had a medium build with short dark hair.

Anyone with information is asked to call investigators at 204-986-6668 or Crime Stoppers at 204 786-TIPS (8477). METRO

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Fatima Kurdi speaks to reporters outside her home in Coquitlam, B.C., on Thursday.
JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

‘Step in and help the refugees’

metro The Syrian Crisis
The Tragedy

Aunt speaks out about family’s plight seeking asylum

The aunt of two drowned Syrian boys recalled her brother’s harrowing battle to save his sons at two emotional news conferences Thursday in Coquitlam, B.C., and said the tragedy would help wake people up and pay attention to the migrant crisis.

“Now the whole world is going to watch my story. Where was all the world before when my kids were hungry? When I didn’t have a job?” said Tima Kurdi.

“I want to tell the rest of the world, at this point, to step in and help the refugees.”

Kurdi said her brother Abdullah described to her the horror of the boys dying in his arms and screamed: “Please don’t die!” at their lifeless bodies.

“He said he tried with all his power,” she said.

Kurdi addressed the media twice Thursday, in order to clarify her family’s plight seeking asylum in Canada.

She had applied for refugee status in Canada for her brother Mohamad, and planned to apply for Abdullah next. But when Mohamad’s application was denied, she knew there was no hope bringing Abdullah here.

Kurdi said she started Mohamad’s application first because his children were older and needed to be in school.

“It was really bad to tell them this ... ‘I’m sorry I can’t bring you here,’” she said.

Mohamad settled in Germany, and Abdullah wanted to follow with his own family. But Abdullah’s wife was scared of the perilous journey across the water to Greece, Kurdi said.

“She said to me, ‘I really don’t want to go, I don’t know how to swim,’” Kurdi said. “I said, ‘Just put your life jacket on, you’ll be fine.’”

Kurdi said she did all she could to help her brothers and their families, including wiring them $5,000 to help pay the smuggler for their escape. “I shouldn’t have sent the money,” she said.

Kurdi said she moved to Canada in 1992 after marrying a Canadian and worked to bring family members to Canada and safety.

Asked what should be done to prevent future tragedies, she said: “Stop the war.”

She said Abdullah now wants to travel to their hometown of Kobani in Syria near the Turkish border to bury his boys.

“He has to bury them in their own country,” she said.

He also wants to put bananas on their graves, as it was their favourite treat, she said.

Kurdi praised NDP MP Fin Donnelly for trying to help and delivering a plea for assistance to Conservative Immigration Minister Chris Alexander.

“And no response,” she said.

Abdullah told reporters after identifying his sons’ bodies that Canadian officials had offered him citizenship after seeing what had happened but that he declined. The Canadian government denies offering him citizenship.

Kurdi said she has not heard of anyone being offered citizenship, but wishes her family could be reunited in Canada.

“But this is the law and you have to follow it,” she said.

The Kurdi family had made a privately sponsored refugee application to the Canadian authorities that was rejected in June due to complications with applications from Turkey.

Kurdi said the family had money and plenty of room to house little Alan Kurdi, his brother and parents.

Kobani, the family’s hometown, has been the scene of intense fighting over the last year. In recent months Kurdish regional forces have been trying to repel attempts by Islamic State to recapture the town.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **I wasn’t asking the Canadian government to drain the system. I can pay for everything.**
> Tima Kurdi, aunt of two drowned Syrian boys

GLOBAL REACTION

World’s media note Canadian connection to Syrian boy

Canada made negative headlines around the world Thursday as news outlets relayed information — some of it erroneous — about the Canadian connection to the lifeless Syrian toddler who washed ashore on a Turkish beach.

Some of the international media coverage focused on Canada’s role in the tragic death of Alan Kurdi, his five-year-old brother and his mother, details of which shifted over the course of the day.

Initial news stories reported that the family had been refused asylum in Canada.

However, the boy’s aunt in British Columbia later explained that, while the family wanted to come to Canada, the boy’s father had not yet formally applied for safe haven. It was another relative, the boy’s uncle, who’d applied and been rebuffed.

In any case, the story circled the globe, with one report saying Canada had offered citizenship to the child’s father, the only surviving member of Kurdi’s family, but he had declined.

A headline across Italy’s La Repubblica website quoted the boy’s father: “I don’t want asylum in Canada anymore — I’ll take my son back to Kobane.”

Canadian immigration officials later said no offer of citizenship was made.

The U.K.’s Independent newspaper ran a headline about the federal campaign: “Canadian immigration minister suspends election campaign to investigate why Syrian family’s refugee application was refused.”

It was a similar headline in Algeria’s El Watan newspaper, which carried the early incorrect detail: “Canada refused asylum to the family of little Alan Kurdi.”

Most of these stories were sidebars to the bigger-picture issue of the worst displaced-persons’ crisis since the Second World War, as illustrated by French news sites which mainly focused on President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel demanding that other European countries do more.

The story and its Canadian connection received similar treatment on the websites of CNN, the BBC, USA Today and Time magazine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Photo evokes past horrors

metro The Syrian Crisis
The World Reacts

Iconic images have played a role in sparking mass response

The photo of the dead three-year-old Syrian boy on a Turkish beach is haunting. It captures everything we don't want to see when we tap our phones or open our newspapers: a vicious civil war, a surge of refugees, the death of an innocent.

The image of little Alan Kurdi is hammering home the Syrian migrant crisis to the world, largely through social media. Alan died along with his five-year-old brother and their mother when their small rubber boat capsized as it headed for Greece.

The Associated Press distributed the photos to its subscribers. The photos were from the Turkish news agency DHA.

"It is a very painful picture to view," said Peter Bouckaert, who as director of emergencies at Human Rights Watch has witnessed his fair share of painful scenes.

In this June 8, 1972, file photo, South Vietnamese forces follow after terrified children, including nine-year-old Kim Phuc, center, as they run down Route 1 near Trang Bang after an aerial napalm attack on suspected Viet Cong hiding places. It remains to be seen whether the photo of Alan Kurdi's lifeless body on a Turkish beach will, like the photo of Phuc, will galvanize people into action. NICK UT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

"It had me in tears when it first showed up on my mobile phone. I had to think hard whether to share this."

But share, he did. Bouckaert, who is in Hungary watching the crisis unfold, said people need to be pushed to look at the "ghastly spectacle" so they can, in turn, prod governments to help the suffering Syrian people.

Still, will the disturbing image galvanize people into action? Will it be like other seared-in-our-memory photographs — a vulture hovering over a starving child in Sudan, a girl fleeing a napalm attack in Vietnam, the child in a firefighter's arms after the Oklahoma City bombing?

Or will it become just another of the many images on social media, lost amid the din?

"One of the things about this story is that it's really difficult sometimes for the world to get a handle on it," said Al Tompkins, a senior faculty member at the Poynter Institute, a centre for media studies in St. Petersburg, Florida. "Regardless of the technology, a singular iconic image can still touch us in ways."

And that singular image is often of a child. That was the cold fact that unsettled people around the globe.

Kathleen Fetters-Iossi, a 47-year-old fiction writer from Wisconsin, said she hopes people share the images to create awareness, then go beyond that to try to help in some way. But she has her doubts any concrete action will come of it.

"Most Americans, if they're just now becoming aware of this issue, will ultimately feel there's nothing we can do," she said. "They feel like we can't handle our own immigration problem, let alone Europe's. Social media can help by creating wider awareness, but ultimately, 'clicktivism' didn't help the Nigerian girls, and it's not going to help those migrants."

In Greece, Alicia Stallings, a mother of two, said she won't link to the photo. It's too close to home. "I watch my kids swim and play in the Aegean and am sometimes struck by horror when I think this is the same water in which children just like them are drowning every day," she wrote in an email.

The photo of the body washed up on the sand was splashed on the front of all major newspapers in Brazil, a nation with more homicides than any other, according to the UN. Still, the picture ignited indignation.

Ary Cordovil, a 35-year-old barber, lives near one of Rio de Janeiro's slums, where a drug gang war has meant nobody leaves home after dark and schools have been shut for weeks.

"I'm used to violence. Brazil is used to seeing violence. But this — this is just painful," he said, staring hard at the image in a newspaper. "He's just a baby trying to flee a war. The absurdity of this is extreme even for us."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The India Centre is excited to announce our inaugural Awards Dinner on September 16, 2015. Our Honoured Guest and Keynote Speaker is Dr. Indira V. Samarasekera, Former President & Vice-Chancellor of The University of Alberta. Dr. Samarasekeras' work and community engagement have been extensive during her career.

Dr. Samarasekera's notable accomplishments are:

- First woman and first engineer to serve as U of A President
- Held the Dofasco Chair in Advanced Steel Processing
- Received the E.W.R. Steacie Memorial Fellowship in 1991, awarded by NSERC to the top four researchers under 40 in Science and Engineering in Canada

Dr. Samarasekera will be receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award of Distinction from the India Centre at this years' fundraising dinner.

The dinner will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the India Association of Manitoba (IAM), an important milestone in the life of the organization, as well as, the history of Manitoba. The IAM has demonstrated its commitment to the India Centre by donating all the proceeds to the India Centre.

For ticket and sponsorship information:
Jessica Adkin at **204-982-1170** or **je.adkin@uwinnipeg.ca** or visit **uwinnipeg.ca/india-centre**

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Ottawa set to open its doors: Mayor

Joe Lofaro
Metro | Ottawa

Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson sent a formal letter to Canada's immigration minister Thursday, saying the city wants to open its doors to more refugees fleeing war-torn Syria.

The mayor's urgent outreach to Chris Alexander comes after a photo emerged of a lifeless three-year-old Syrian boy, Alan Kurdi, washed up on a beach on the shores of Turkey, sparking worldwide outrage.

The letter said Watson is watching "with great concern" the events surrounding the crisis and affirmed he is committed to assisting with the settlement in Canada's capital of those affected.

"I would like to ask for the support of Citizenship and Immigration Canada and other relevant federal partners to identify what role the municipal sector could play," wrote Watson.

"It would be helpful if you could assign a senior official to liaise with City of Ottawa staff to ensure a strong co-ordination of federal plans on the local level."

> **I would like to ask for the support of Citizenship and Immigration Canada ... to identify what role the municipal sector could play.**
> Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson

A refugee looks at the barbed-wire fence from the Serbian side of the border to the Hungarian town of Roszke on Thursday.
SANTI PALACIOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tory immigration policy postponed

The Conservative Party postponed a press conference at which it planned to tout its immigration policy, amid criticism of the Canadian government's response to the European migrant crisis.

On Wednesday afternoon, the party sent reporters a press release indicating that Conservative candidate Jason Kenney would be in Brampton, Ont., on Thursday to "make an important announcement on Conservative efforts to protect the integrity of Canada's immigration system and the security of Canada."

On Thursday morning, party spokesman Stephen Lecce sent out a second release saying the event had been "postponed to a later date."

The announcement came hours after Conservative candidate and former immigration minister Chris Alexander dropped his campaign plans to return to Ottawa to be briefed on the crisis.

Disturbing photos of three-year-old Alan Kurdi's body on the Turkish beach have been viewed around the world. His mother and five-year-old brother also died while trying to make the passage from Turkey.

Speaking about the migrant crisis at a press conference on Thursday, NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair said, "Canada has failed."

Lecce didn't respond directly when Torstar News Service asked if Kenney's event had been cancelled because of controversy over Canada's handling of the refugee issue. He said reporters would be notified when the announcement is rescheduled.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Slow process causes 'desperate measures'

metro The Syrian Crisis
Canadians Rally

Applicants face long wait to settle in Canada legally

Neal Hall
For Metro

Syrian refugees are taking desperate measures to come to Canada because of the complex and lengthy process, says a Vancouver immigration lawyer.

"Current processing times are four to five years," Laura Best said regarding the legal process for Syrian refugees to come to Canada, many of whom have friends and relatives here who sponsor them.

She said some try to enter Canada on visitor visas and then seek refugee status, but since the start of the war in Syria, the federal government often refuses visitor visas on the belief that they will not return to their home country.

"What we're seeing is that when legal avenues are closed, desperate measures are taken," Best said, referring to media stories of a man trying to flee Turkey for Greece by boat with his family, reportedly with the goal of living with his brother in Coquitlam.

The boat capsized and the man's wife and two young children drowned. Photos of the tragedy are horrifying evidence of the Syrian crisis.

> **The numbers that Canada is talking about resettling is so low.... 3,000 a year (from Syria) is a drop in the bucket.**
> Immigration lawyer Laura Best

Best said those seeking to legally enter Canada can either seek refugee sponsorship by the Canadian government or private sponsorship through church groups and non-government organizations. Another option is the G5 program: having a group of five Canadian adults sponsor a refugee and having representatives in the area where the refugee plans to live.

Prior to 2012, those coming through the G5 program did not need to be recognized as refugees by either the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or a foreign state — the Canadian government would do the assessment of whether they met the definition of a refugee, Best said.

But since 2012, after amendments to Immigration and Refugee Protection regulations, Canada now requires G5 refugees to acquire a determination from the UNHCR or a third state to come through the program, Best said.

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks about the Syrian refugee crisis during a campaign event in Surrey, B.C. on Thursday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Policy won't stop refugee deaths: PM

metro The Syrian Crisis
The Political Fallout

Immigration minister halts campaign in wake of tragedy

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says Canada's refugee policy isn't enough to stop the tragic deaths of refugees in Europe.

"We could drive ourselves crazy with grief, obviously we try to do what we can do to help," Harper said, but he said adding more resources to speed up the flow of refugees is not "of itself a reasonable moral reaction or solution to this problem."

Speaking at a Conservative rally in Surrey, B.C., Harper addressed the refugee crises in Europe that hit home yesterday when photographs of a drowned Syrian 3-year-old boy made headlines. He said he and his wife found it "heart-wrenching."

"I think our reaction to that, the first thing that crossed our mind was remembering our son Ben at that age," Harper said.

"It brings tears to our eyes," he said. "It truly is a heartbreaking situation and a terrible tragedy."

But Harper said the report that the child pictured in the image and his family was denied refuge asylum is "not correct."

"There was no record of an application received for Mr. Abdullah Kurdi and his family," Citizenship and Immigration Canada spokesman Jean-Bruno Villeneuve said in a statement.

"Refugee policy alone is not a solution to this process," Harper said.

News of the tragedy derailed Conservative election campaign events Thursday.

Defence Minister Jason Kenney cancelled a security-related immigration announcement; Harper delayed an infrastructure announcement.

Immigration Minister Chris Alexander dropped campaign plans to rush to Ottawa and "ascertain both the facts of the case of the Kurdi family and to receive an update on the migrant crisis," he said in an emailed statement.

> **The international community has failed. Canada has failed.**
> NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair

"The tragic photo of young Alan Kurdi and the news of the death of his brother and mother broke hearts around the world," Alexander said.

The boys' father, Abdullah Kurdi, told reporters after identifying his sons' bodies Thursday that Canadian officials had offered him citizenship after seeing what had happened but that he declined.

"Canada did not offer citizenship to Mr. Abdullah Kurdi," immigration spokesman Villeneuve said.

Kurdi's sister Fatima said all her brother wants now is take the bodies of his boys and wife back to their Syrian hometown of Kobane.

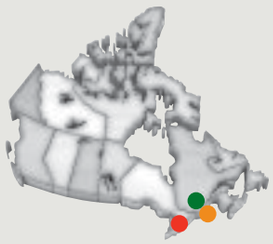
Sobbing at a news conference outside her Coquitlam, B.C. home, the woman who came to Canada in 1992 said Abdullah needed to get about $14,000 in denture work.

The boys' uncle, Rocco Logozzo, told The Canadian Press that the system is designed to fail. He adds his family had money and plenty of room to house Alan and his brother and parents at his home in Coquitlam. Logozzo said his relatives were desperate.

"When they heard (the refugee application) failed, they lost all hope, and in a desperate situation, you make all these wrong decisions," Logozzo said.

NDP Leader Tom Mulcair became particularly emotional at news conference Thursday. "The international community has failed," he said. "Canada has failed." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

WHERE THE LEADERS ARE FRIDAY



- **Justin Trudeau** will be in Toronto and Richmond Hill, Ont.
- **Tom Mulcair** will be in Brossard, Que.
- **Elizabeth May** will be in Montreal.

Stephen Harper's itinerary was unavailable.

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Migrants taken to asylum camps after station opens

metro The Syrian Crisis
The Political Fallout

New standoff after service to Western Europe is halted

Thousands of people desperate to reach Western Europe rushed into a Budapest train station Thursday after police ended a two-day blockade, setting off a wave of anger and confusion as hundreds shoved their way onto a waiting train. But when it tried to drop them off at a Hungarian camp for asylum seekers, a bitter showdown began.

One man threw his wife and infant son onto the tracks, screaming in Arabic, "We won't move from here!" Police surrounded the prone family, pulled the husband away and handcuffed him as he wailed. His wife and diaper-clad boy — apparently uninjured — were freed and allowed to rejoin other migrants.

The scene was just one of many that unfolded Thursday as tempers flared in Hungary's war of wills with migrants trying to evade asylum checks and reach Western Europe.

As Hungary's anti-immigrant prime minister warned European partners that he intends to make his country's borders an impassible fortress for new arrivals, his government struggled to coax thousands of unwanted visitors away from the Budapest transportation hub that has been turned into a squalid refugee camp.

People fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East, Asia and Africa rushed into the Keleti train terminal when police unexpectedly withdrew Thursday morning, ending a blockade designed to stop migrants from boarding trains to their desired destinations in Germany and Austria.

Over 150,000 people have reached Hungary this year, most coming through the southern border with Serbia. Many apply for asylum but quickly try to leave for richer EU countries, like Germany. ZOLTAN BALOGH/MTI/TH ASSOCIATED PRESS

In desperate scenes, people pushed each other to reach the train's six carriages, thinking that getting on board meant they would be first to escape Hungary. But instead of heading to the Austrian border, the overloaded train stopped at Bicske, a town northwest of Budapest that holds one of the country's five camps for asylum seekers — facilities the migrants want to avoid because they don't want to pursue asylum claims in economically depressed Hungary. As the train platform filled with police came into view, those inside chanted their disapproval.

> **Nobody would like to stay in Hungary. All of them would like to go to Germany.**
> Viktor Orban, Hungary's prime minister

The crowd, angrily waving train tickets to Vienna and Munich, refused police orders to board buses to the asylum centre, pushing their way past police and back onto the train. A day-long standoff ensued in which police and charity workers took turns handing food and water to the passengers, only to have them tossed out train windows in protest.

Back at the Budapest train station, announcements in Hungarian and English — but not Arabic, the language of most of those gathered inside — declared that all services from the station to Western Europe had been cancelled. A statement in English on the main departures board said no more trains to Austria or Germany would leave "due to safety reasons until further notice!"

Conditions at Keleti station have grown increasingly unsanitary despite the efforts of volunteers distributing water, food, medicine and disinfectants. The numbers of those stuck there have swelled since Hungary reversed course Tuesday after allowing more than 2,000 migrants to travel on trains heading west the day before. Thousands were stranded after buying tickets costing 61 to 122 euros ($68 to $136).

Hungary's rail company said Thursday it was refusing to refund the tickets at the station, citing fears that some may be counterfeit. It said ticket-holders must file refund requests in writing and have the reimbursement mailed to them.

The waiting is taking its toll and has sparked occasional protests near the terminal entrance. The migrants survive on food handouts from Hungarian charities and individual donors, augmented by their own purchases from pizza stalls, kebab shops and burger joints. Sleeping overnight on the cold concrete proves fitful, leaving many semi-comatose in a carpet of bodies by day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Q&A: Migrant situation

metro The Syrian Crisis
The Tragedy

Here's a look at the conflict and what compels Syrians to attempt the treacherous journey to Europe:

WHAT ARE THEY ESCAPING?

Barrel bombs, chemical weapons attacks, beheadings and starvation, to name just a few. Most of the refugees are driven by an overriding need to escape what has essentially become hell on earth, caught between Syrian President Bashar Assad's ruthless war machine and the Islamic State group's brutality. Many Syrians say most unbearable are the barrel bombs dropped daily on opposition-held areas by Syrian army helicopters. The makeshift, shrapnel-packed explosive devices known by Syrians as death barrels pulverize entire neighbourhoods once they hit the ground. They have killed tens of thousands of people over the past four years, according to human rights organizations. Islamic State militants have also been responsible for the exodus out of Syria.

WHAT ARE THE NUMBERS?

Syria's brutal conflict, now in its fifth year, has touched off the greatest humanitarian crisis of our time, according to U.N. officials. The organization estimates that around 250,000 people have been killed and more than one million wounded since March 2011. About half the country's prewar population of 23 million has been displaced, including more than 4 million who have fled Syria. Tactics such as encircling populated areas have caused untold cases of starvation, malnutrition and chronic illness.

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WHEN THERE ARE NO WORDS: ARTISTS SKETCH THEIR GRIEF FOR ALAN KURDI

"How his story should have ended"
SAVE KOBANI, FACEBOOK

"New world map"
RAFAT ALKHATEEB

"I hope humanity finds a cure for visas" @KHALIDALBAIH

Untitled
YASER AHMAD

"La honte" ("The shame")
@JUICEXLX

" ض does not protect you" (This is a quotation from the poet Mahmoud Darwish) @NASERJAFARI

What you can do to help Syrian refugees in crisis

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Sadly, it took a heartbreaking picture of a three-year old lifeless body, face-down on the shore, for the world to pay closer attention to a crisis in Syria that has raged for more than four years.

At the office of Lifeline Syria, a Toronto-based initiative fighting to bring 1,000 Syrian refugees to Canada in the next two years, phones were ringing off the hook Thursday.

"I think the events of the last few days have really brought the situation to a peak in terms of public awareness and concern," Naomi Alboim, a member of the group's executive committee, told me.

That's a good thing. Don't get me wrong. What's not so good is that tragedy had to happen before the world reacted. Lifeline Syria has been urging people to attend its recruitment and training sessions on sponsoring Syrian refugees for months. At each of the past three such meetings, only about 100 people attended. With the new developments, and many more people coming forward, the Sept. 16 gathering could host well over 300 potential sponsors.

Alboim says individuals and groups who want to get involved should focus on raising funds — Citizenship and Immigration Canada requires that sponsors be able to provide $26,000 for a family of four. More information on how to get involved can be found at www.lifelinesyria.ca.

If you can't sponsor, donate. There are many organizations working directly in and around Syrian borders to help care for people in need.

UNICEF Canada called Syria the most dangerous place to be a child, and launched an emergency appeal to save Syrian children. You can donate through their website, www.unicef.ca.

Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières, or MSF) Canada is another organization that sends medical and humanitarian staff to provide emergency health care to Syrian refugees inside Syria, and in Turkey, Iraq, Jordan and Lebanon. You can donate through this page: www.msf.ca/en/donate-now.

More importantly, Canadians should pressure the government to simplify and speed up what has become a slow and complex sponsorship-application process. The Citizenship and Immigration website advises that applications typically take years to come to completion. And even the most urgent and luckiest applicants will wait more than six months.

Alboim, who once worked for the federal government, says she doesn't understand how the waiting times have gotten so long. She remembers that it used to take just days to get an application through.

It's important, as policy-makers seek military and diplomatic solutions, that ordinary citizens continue to think about ordinary lives caught in the turmoil.

"Six days is too long for people in desperation," she says.

It's important, as policy-makers seek military and diplomatic solutions to geopolitical problems, that ordinary citizens continue to think about ordinary lives caught in the turmoil, and find ways to chip in.

Let's not wait for the next tragedy to stir us to action.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

If this is generous, Syrians are screwed. Resign, Alexander.

This should be the end. Not only of the Conservative's heel-dragging to settle desperate Syrian refugees, but of the political career of Chris Alexander.

On CBC's Power and Politics Wednesday, after the world saw the image of a dead boy tossed limply onto sand, the minister of citizenship and immigration scoffed at criticism of his government's response to the global refugee crisis.

The man, who in 2014 grossly misrepresented how few Syrians his government had settled, turned his evasive tongue on the media.

"The biggest conflict and humanitarian crisis of our time has been there for two years, and you and others have not put it in the headlines where it deserves to be," he accused.

A blatant lie, but worse, a callous remark. He was picking fights while people are dying.

The government maintains its refugee policy isn't to blame for the young boys' deaths. It's wrong.

We have an application bureaucracy that some of the boys' extended family had already found impossible to navigate, requiring documents that some refugees can't produce. So, instead, the boy's aunt paid for him, his brother and parents to flee on a boat. Only the father survived.

When the application process is deemed futile by those it could save, that's deadly.

Across the country, Canadians have battled the government to sponsor more Syrian refugees. Nova Scotia lobbied for that right, and met silence. And, because privately-sponsored Syrian refugees must have support from friends or family, Mennonites in Alberta have partnered with Syrians already in Canada to get more refugees to safety.

Yesterday, Alexander touted Canada as home to "one of most generous per capita immigration and refugee resettlement programs in the world." That is technically true, but in no way laudable.

There are four million Syrian refugees. The government has taken 2,500 so far, and, amid mounting pressure and an election campaign, committed this year to take a mere 20,000. If we're the most generous, Syrians are screwed.

Margaret Wente described Alexander in 2011 as an "unabashed idealist" and humanitarian. But there's no idealism in the Conservatives' treatment of refugees. Only an un-Canadian stinginess, and a cold disregard for human life.

No one man or country can fix a global humanitarian crisis. But one man can be held responsible for Canada's lacklustre efforts.

The dead boy is "reminding Canadians of our duty," Alexander said last night, in a mea-culpa appearance on Power and Politics. But time is up: He's already failed in his.

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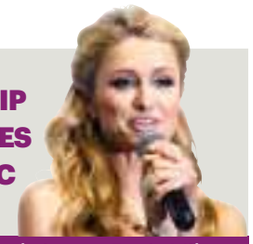

The anti-Bling Ring: Polish fireman returns giant diamond-studded ring to Paris Hilton

Dreaming the same dream

SUMMER OF 2015

Reports of cinema's death are greatly exaggerated

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse

From Mad Max to Trainwreck, people flocked to the movies in huge numbers this summer, filling seats not simply to sit in air conditioning or dine on popcorn, but to participate in a time-honoured tradition, writes Richard Crouse. HANDOUT

The summer movie season began amid doom and gloom. I don't mean George Miller's filling screens with his dystopian vision of the future in Mad Max: Fury Road or the career ending fallout from the Sony hack. No, I mean the sky-is-falling predictions that circulated about the movie business.

Box office is down! No one goes to the movies anymore! And best of all: Movies are dead!

To paraphrase Mark Twain, I'm happy to say the reports of the death of cinema have been greatly exaggerated. The summer box office of 2015 will go down in the record books as the second-biggest in history with almost seven billion dollars generated by Minions, Ant-Man, Mad Max, dinosaurs and a sad little girl named Riley.

Superheroes helped put bums in seats, but 2015 won't be remembered as the Year of Ultron. Now that the summer silly season is over, a definite trend toward female-driven movies like Trainwreck, Pitch Perfect 2 and Spy showed that, as Amy Schumer told me, Hollywood has finally realized "our money works, too. Our banks also accept the female dollar."

But it wasn't just women going to the movies. With Jurassic World pulling in 1.6 billion samolians worldwide, it seems everyone put down the remote and went to the cinema.

We didn't rush out to everything — cash grabs like Ted 2 and Terminator: Genisys flopped — but the naysayers, the folks who, in January, were declaring movies to be a thing of the past, an old outmoded form of entertainment in the digital age, missed the point.

People flocked to the movies in huge numbers this summer, filling seats and studio bank accounts, not simply to sit in air conditioning for a few hours as relief from the summer heat or to dine out on popcorn and Twizzlers, but to engage in an age-old ritual.

Of course, you can watch movies at home or on your phone. New technology has made it easier than ever to enjoy a film from the comfort of your coach on a 60-inch screen with surround sound and healthy, homemade snacks, but no matter what set-up you may have in your living room, the thing missing is the ancient practice of sharing entertainment with a large group of strangers. It's a primal thing, hard-wired into our DNA, that dates back to when tribes of cave dwellers would sit around fires and tell stories through to the Globe Theatre, vaudeville, the talkies and right up to today's IMAX and AUX screenings.

People have gathered to be entertained since there were tales to be told because there is no better way to enjoy the storytelling experience than surrounded by strangers who are laughing, crying, gasping—whatever — in response to a shared event.

No matter how large your TV or comfortable your sofa, home viewing misses the magical element of community. In the theatre you're getting the sound and the picture the director intended, but more than that the experience brings people together, inspires conversation, respect and triggers actual physical interaction with others. Try that as you stream a movie on your iPhone.

Of course, as in any other community there are a few troublemakers — texters, seat kickers — but I spend more time in theatres than most and find the pros far outweigh any negatives.

In the era of home entertainment the idea of going to the movies may sound old fashioned or quaint but I like the way English novelist Angela Carter described watching a film in a theatre. She called it "dreaming the same dream in unison" and that, for me will never go out of style.

MOVIE RATINGS by Richard Crouse

A Walk in the Woods ★★★
The Transporter Refueled ★
Dragon Blade ★★★
Mountain Men ★★★

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Jackie Chan still kicking it on screen

INTERVIEW

At 61, the action star shows no signs of slowing down

Steve Gow
Metro Life

He may have karate-chopped his way to become one of the world's biggest actors, but even 40 years of action haven't slowed down Jackie Chan. Dragon Blade — the Hong Kong star's latest thriller — sees the much-loved martial artist leading a theorized war epic about lost Romans duelling Chinese guards along the Silk Road trade route. Metro caught up with Chan to find out why, at 61, he's happy to keep filming.

Dragon Blade was the most expensive Chinese film ever made. Why was it so important to you?
The heart of this story is completely captivating. The idea that the world's two greatest civilizations had an encounter that was never recorded in history! How could I not want to make this film? It also allows me to touch on philosophical issues that are important to me and to director Daniel Lee — like peace.

Even though Dragon Blade is an action film, there are bits of comedy. Is comedy just natural for you as an actor?
It's not necessarily deliberate but it just comes out. My next film is also an action-comedy so I guess I can never fully escape the genre. But I'm trying to vary my range and be seen as an actor who does comedy and action. I hope you'll recognize that in Dragon Blade.

You've said that when you were young, box-office success was important. How has that changed?
The box office result was very important when I was young. If my films had no box office, people wouldn't invite me to make another film. I had to feed my family, so making money came first…now I feel a responsibility towards society and the world. So my mind has changed and I don't care so much about the box office. I want to make the movies I want to make and spread my message.

You have lots of upcoming projects — what can you tell me about Karate Kid 2?
The next Karate Kid script is still being written. On the one hand we want a script that everybody is proud of so we've been really demanding. On the other hand, Jaden is getting older. Soon, he'll be taller than me and his dad! But I can see it happening soon.

SEQUELS

More Rush Hour?
The buddy-cop franchise that paired Chan with funnyman Chris Tucker has spawned two sequels with another possibly on the way. "Chris and I both agreed that we need a really good story to move forward," said Chan. "People keep asking me about Rush Hour, so I guess we better work harder."

Jackie Chan stars in Dragon Blade, the most expensive Chinese film ever made. It opens this Friday. HANDOUT

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COUNTRY

Maddie & Tae take back the charts

The country duo Maddie & Tae took on gender stereotypes in their first platinum single, Girl in a Country Song, and now they are targeting another overused effect in today's country music: electronic drum machines.

"Fake drums," said Maddie Marlow, clenching her fists in mock anger. "I hate the fake drums. Those need to go away!"

Country music's young provocateurs came out swinging last summer with their on-point criticism of lyrics that portrayed women as simply objects of desire in cutoff jean shorts and bikini tops. Now that they've got everyone's attention, Marlow, 20, and Taylor "Tae" Dye, 19, have got much more to say on their debut album, Start Here, out today.

The two songwriters from Texas and Oklahoma met at age 15 and found inspiration in the other female artists known for starting trouble in country music, the Dixie Chicks. But they never expected Girl in a Country Song to ever get played on radio, much less make them the first female duo to have a Top 10 country song since 2007.

They wanted to follow up with a song just as powerful, but also a true representation of their harmony-laden melodies and original lyrics.

"We were just trying to be machines to put out something that would live up to the first single," Dye said. "And then finally we were like, 'Let's stop lying to ourselves and put something out that we believe in.'"

Fly, an acoustic guitar-driven song about spreading your wings through adversity, is currently No. 14 on Billboard's Hot Country songs chart.

"Of course there's pressure ... if you don't have this slamming up-tempo (song) that has a little rap thing in it, then it's not going to make it on country radio," Marlow said. "We are saying something and we're not backing down. This is the message. This is what we want to say."

Country star Dierks Bentley first heard of the duo on Girl in a Country Song, but it was their live show that convinced him to give them an opening slot on his Sounds of Summer tour along with Kip Moore and Canaan Smith.

"There aren't too many female duos out there like Maddie & Tae, so I think they are really refreshing and intriguing for my audience," Bentley said via email.

Their debut album has plenty of witty moments, but they also amp up the emotion on tracks.

"Every song means something," Marlow said. "Every song tells one of our stories, or a story together." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tae Dye, left, and Maddie Marlow, right, are the first female duo to have a Top 10 country song since 2007. GETTY IMAGES

THE TV DINNER JESSICA ALLEN

After Will schools a Harvard 'Michael Bolton clone' in the bar where he first meets Skylar, he tells the grad student, "I got her numba. How do you like dem apples?"

There's nothing more annoying than someone recounting their dreams. So let me tell you about a recurring one I used to have: I'm shooting hoops with Matt and Ben (we are on a first-name basis), while we talk about the screenplay for Good Will Hunting II — I'm helping them write it.

I think it was seeing the still baby-faced Damon and Affleck take the stage in 1997 to accept the Academy Award for best screenplay that launched my REM fantasy. Here were two practically unknowns, just a couple of years older than I was, who'd just won Oscars for their story about an orphan-turned-janitor at MIT who could solve equations on napkins that only a handful of people in the world could also figure out.

Good Will Hunting stayed with me — maybe because it's the last film I remember seeing in a theatre with my mom and brother. I can recite nearly the entire thing, which makes me a very annoying viewing companion.

I could see regret in the eyes of my partner, Simon, when we watched it Saturday night. I announced at least five times that my favourite scene was coming up; I recited the jokes (in a Boston accent) before the characters did; and, like clockwork, I cried at the end when Will's therapist Sean, a role which earned Robin Williams an Academy Award, confronts him. "It's not your fault."

THE MOVIE: Good Will Hunting

THE MEAL: Hand-picked apples

Every year around Labour Day, I watch it. Maybe that's on account of the campus scenes — the hustle and bustle of students toting backpacks in lecture halls.

Or maybe it's the apples. You know the scene: After Will schools a Harvard "Michael Bolton clone" in the bar where he first meets Skylar, he tells the grad student, "I got her numba. How do you like dem apples?"

Coincidentally, my neighbour messaged me on Sunday to say that her apple tree was bearing more fruit than she knew what to do with and gave me enough for at least a couple of pies.

The only trouble was when I bit down into one, I knew I couldn't bear to bake them. They are small and tart, with a touch of sweet, and possess a crunch that caused me to have a Proustian moment: These are the apples of my childhood. The kind we'd pick every autumn and devour before my mom could use them up for something else. The kind that made me spit the mealy, imported sort.

I still occasionally daydream about Damon and Affleck. Does Matt now lecture Ben on how to make a marriage last? Do they get together every now and then, and watch J Lo's Jenny From the Block video?

Does something as simple as a perfectly tart apple remind them of bygone days, when they brought their moms to the Academy Awards on the cusp of finding fame and fortune?

Jessica Allen is the digital correspondent on CTV's The Social.

MOVIE BRIEFS

Blanchett to play iconic star of I Love Lucy fame

Actress Cate Blanchett will take on the role of Lucille Ball in an upcoming biopic, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Aaron Sorkin will write the script for the film, which will focus on the iconic actress's life and long-spanning career. Ball won four Emmys during her career and was nominated 13 times.

She held the starring role in TV sitcoms I Love Lucy, The Lucy Show, Life with Lucy, The Lucy-Desi Comedy Hour and Here's Lucy.

Lucie Arnaz and Desi Arnaz Jr., Ball's children with husband Desi Arnaz, will produce the film alongside Escape Artists.

Australian actress Blanchett has most recently been seen in films Cinderella and Carol. AFP

Cate Blanchett. GETTY IMAGES

HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

DreamWorks looking for new park to play in, sources say

Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks film studio plans to part ways with Disney when their distribution tie-up ends in a year's time, an industry source told AFP on Wednesday.

Trade reports suggest Spielberg is looking to negotiate a new partnership with more favourable terms, boosted by the runaway success of Jurassic World, on which he was executive producer.

Universal — the Hollywood studio behind the blockbuster dinosaur series — is being tipped as Spielberg's likely new home by both the Hollywood Reporter and Variety.

According to an industry insider who did not wish to be named, it is too soon to say who will be distributing DreamWorks' production after the Disney deal ends on Aug. 16, 2016.

But the source told AFP that DreamWorks, which Spielberg helped found in 1994, feels out of step with the Disney model and its focus on big, tentpole films such as new Star Wars instalments or Pixar's animated mega-hit Inside Out.

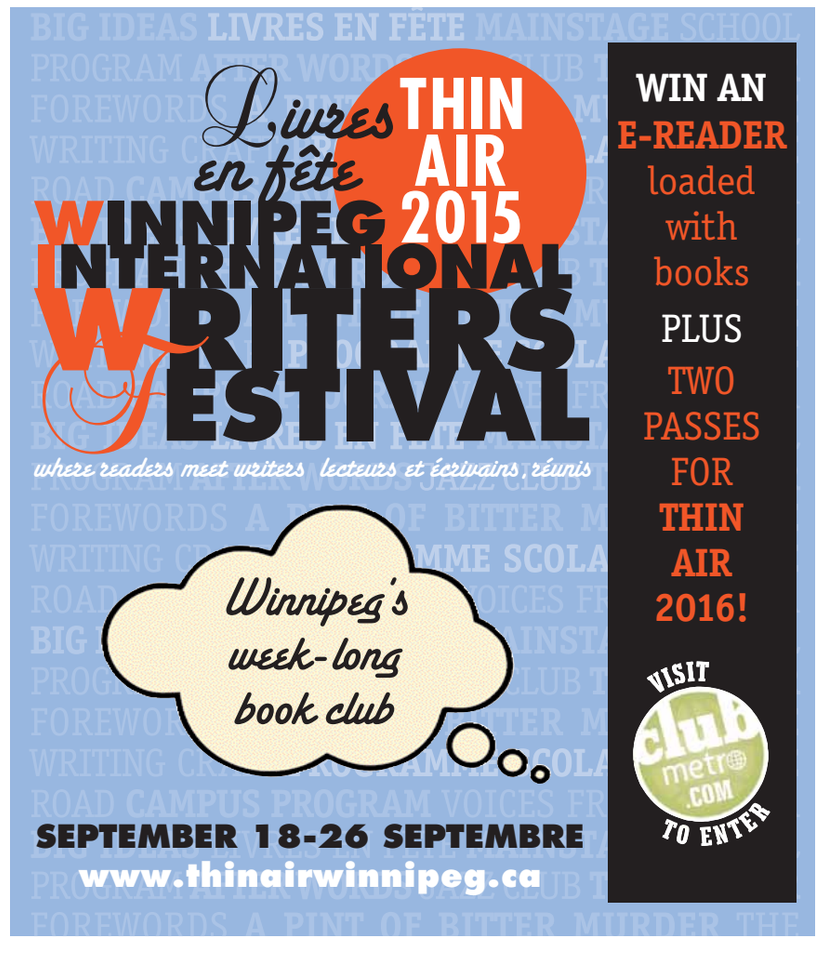
Disney's focus — exemplified by the acquisition in recent years of Marvel, Lucasfilm and Pixar — is firmly on movies that can be spun off into lucrative video games, amusement parks, branded toys and knick-knacks.

DreamWorks meanwhile has been focusing on smaller, adult-oriented movies such as The Help or, more recently, The Hundred-Foot Journey with Helen Mirren.

DreamWorks signed a multiple-year distribution contract with Disney in 2009, after splitting from Paramount.

Spielberg's hand was strengthened in Hollywood by this year's Jurassic World $1.6 billion box office takings. A sequel is already slated for release in 2018, also starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, and with Spielberg as executive producer. AFP

Spielberg executive-produced Jurassic World, third-highest grossing film in history. CONTRIBUTED



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Good bones for a bad guy

Ed Skrein believes his bone structure may be behind his getting chosen to play evil characters.
HANDOUT

VILLAIN ROLES

Despite his casting, actor says he is a big teddy bear

Ned Ehrbar
For Metro

Ed Skrein swears he's a nice guy, despite appearances.

The British actor and rapper steps in for Jason Statham in The Transporter: Refueled, the fourth film in the fast-car franchise, and he'll soon be seen in the dark comedy Kill Your Friends and doing battle with Ryan Reynolds in Deadpool as the villain Ajax.

When you're stepping into a franchise role like this, what sort of hesitations or trepidations go along with that?
That doesn't play into it for me. It isn't really a factor, you know? And when taking on a role like this, I have the same preparation I would have normally (while) taking on a small European independent movie with a character that's never been played by anyone else. You find the character, you find the wiring and you work out how they make decisions.

Did you watch the previous films to prepare?
I did. I'd never seen them before, and it was so important for me to watch them, to know what the fans expected and what had come previously. I think it would be ignorant of me to have not. And after that it was important for me to just move on and focus on my own approach.

> **"You sort of find their shoes and get comfortable in them.**
> Ed Skrein, on preparing for a role

These films are so technically specific.
It's fascinating, and it's why I love my job. I finished The Transporter, and a week later I went onto a Danish independent movie, which I think the budget was three million euros and we had a crew of 26 people. We shot it all Dogma-style, Danish style — very little makeup, very little lighting, one camera — and it was fascinating to see the difference in approach. For me, that's the blueprint going forward, and that's the joy of this craft, is to be able to have the yin and the yang and to balance between the two.

You're also in the darkly comic Kill Your Friends, which debuts at TIFF.
It's an incredible book. Quintessentially dark, British humour. I would've cleaned the toilets on set, I was so excited to be a part of it. Also, it's a different role for me. A lot of the stuff that I've done has been pretty heavy, pretty dark. People tend to gravitate towards me when they want dark stuff. I can't think why. Even when I do comedy, I do it dark like Deadpool and Kill Your Friends.

If you were to speculate as to why people think of you for these darker things ...
I think my bone structure suggests that I am a violent person (laughs). But in real life, I'm a teddy bear. I'm a pacifist in every sense. I think even when I do a neutral face I look like I'm going to stab you in the eye. Darkness is something that I enjoy exploring in cinema because I don't have darkness in my life. My life is very light and just about my family, very calm and ordinary. Maybe the cinema and this craft is my therapy. I get to kill people and beat people up and be immensely horrible and evil on camera and live my days nine to five as a sociopath, and then I go home and I've got it out of my system.

That sounds very healthy, actually.
You should try it.

Keys to The Arcs: new band 'killing it'

FUSION

Dan Auerbach brings diverse roster together

Black Keys singer-guitarist-producer Dan Auerbach brought together studio musicians with diverse backgrounds in rock, soul, Latin and country for his new band, The Arcs. The result?

"We are killing it all the time," Auerbach said with a laugh in a recent interview. "No B-sides, all A-sides."

All hyperbole aside, the roster includes multi-instrumentalist Richard Swift, saxophonist and producer Leon Michels, drummer Homer Steinweiss and bassist Nick Movshon, and features country guitarist Kenny Vaughan, pedal steel player Russ Pahl and the all-female Mariachi Flor de Toloache.

Their debut album to be released Friday, Yours, Dreamily, is a funky, synthesizer-heavy collection of garage rock songs as varied as the musicians involved.

The Associated Press talked with Auerbach, Swift and Michels, all longtime friends and collaborators, at Auerbach's Easy Eye Sound studio in Nashville, Tenn., one of four places where the album was recorded over a two-week period.

How did you find time for this project?

Auerbach: We all have very busy schedules and that's why the recording schedules were all over the place. Because it was just as simple as whenever at least two of us had a day off and were in the same city, we would get together. So it was born out of that. It wasn't about time. We make the time because it's fun and we enjoy it.

> **We're keeping our expectations very low and trying our hardest.**
> Dan Auerbach

Swift: We've all got our own studios, too, so it's just really easy to walk in and not worry about being on the clock. Not worry about conflicting schedules. Dan and I are on the same schedule because I played the bass in The Black Keys for the last couple of years, so that made it easier.

Auerbach: Honestly, ever since we gave it an identity and it became a real thing, it felt like everyone's excitement got a little bit more and everyone's dedication got a little bit more.

Michels: And the sound got more focused, too.

That's a lot of skilled musicians in one place. How did it not end up becoming a big jam session?

Michels: There were like 40 songs recorded. We were just constantly making music. There was never that much pressure to record the record. We were just recording. And then like they said, it finally found a voice. But there's like 30 songs that didn't make the record.

How did you share producing duties?

Auerbach: When we're together, everyone is a producer. And everyone is equal on everything. And everyone has a voice and a real strong voice and that's what makes it interesting.

Everybody does their own thing really well. We've all made records together. That's so much a part of this band, being in the studio.

What did the all-female mariachi band bring to the album?

Auerbach: It definitely added some depth to the music. ... It's a special thing that they add. And it's hard to define, which makes the music that much more difficult to define, which I think we all really like.

We didn't really get into this to make a particular style. Or particular type of record. We just wanted to entertain ourselves. And pulling in more of these influences that we love just feels like the better it becomes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dan Auerbach, centre, Richard Swift, left, and Leon Michels at Easy Eye Studio in Nashville, Tenn. WADE PAYNE/INVISION/AP

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‘A rock ’n’ roll chick till I die’

INTERVIEW

Diemonds’ Priya Panda talks work ethic and genres

SOUND CHECK

Alan Cross

Priya Panda, frontperson for Toronto’s five-piece Diemonds is in Calgary, heading for some Lebanese breakfast. It’s one in the in the afternoon, but when you tour as much as this band does, circadian rhythms tend to shift.

Panda — daughter of parents who immigrated to Canada from Mumbai — isn’t the kind of person many people would expect to see leading a hard rock band.

“I got my work ethic from them. My dad lived in a one-room shack with three of his brothers before he moved to Toronto with 60 dollars in his pocket and put himself through school and had four jobs while he did it. That’s my life now but in a different way, because I work tons of jobs just so I can play music.”

Being the female lead in a hard rock band is something she gets asked about a lot.

“Female-fronted is not a genre,” she says, “but it has become one in its own little way. And there’s not many of us out there. My new MO on this new album (Never Wanna Die, which is out now) is I want more women to be turned on to heavy and hard music where you can have a voice and a message. I don’t want to throw any genres under the bus ... but they don’t get to touch upon the things that I like to touch on, like things that are going on in the world.

Panda — who has no trouble describing herself as “a rock ’n’ roll chick till I die” — still runs into other women who don’t appear to approve of her musical choices. “I do get flak from women. They see something they’d never do and they focus on that. It’s something that needs to stop. It’s crazy because women should be supporting each other.”

Strong women are among Panda’s biggest influences: Wendy O. Williams from the Plasmatics, Anne Boleyn from Hellion and especially Courtney Love. “I have hundreds of Hole bootlegs,” she confesses. There’s also Slayer, Slash and Avenged Sevenfold.

Is there a change coming? Is rock going to turn from the melodic sort of stuff to something harder based on loud guitars?

“I can’t f—ing wait!” exclaims Panda. “Guys who play banjos and ukuleles speaking of themselves. A me-me-me approach. It’s almost the exact opposite of rock. I want to go to a show be f—ing entertained! I like explosions and fire!”

Catch Diemonds on tour across Canada this fall, including a big album release party at the Hard Luck Bar in Toronto Saturday, Sept. 5.

“We see tons of girls at our shows — yeah, they’re still dominated by guys — but every time we come out to these cities, there are more and more girls. And that’s what I like to see,” says Diemonds frontwoman Priya Panda. HANDOUT

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Renowned chef joins Gus & Tony’s

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It all began for a young busboy more than 40 years ago in the heartbeat of Winnipeg’s restaurant scene.

For Arnaldo Carreira, a career in the industry has been a life-long venture that continues to this day.

Most notably, in 1993, with determination and a flair for the creative, Arnaldo opened his first high-end establishment on the Corydon strip loyal diners knew as Orlando’s Seafood Grill. For more than 20 years he received countless accolades alongside the number one spot on Trip Advisor for two straight years in a row before closing the restaurant’s stylish doors in 2013.

Prior to Orlando’s, Arnaldo’s career in restaurant ownership began in 1976 when he and his brothers opened Nazaré, formerly Zoratti’s on Portage Avenue. 1977 saw the opening of the Courtyard Café, and soon ventured into the disco era with Bogarts opening two years later.

Picasso’s Seafood Restaurant, popular for its Portuguese food, opened in 1984 on Maryland and Sargent with a second location opening two years later on Portage Avenue.

Arnaldo also spearheaded the opening of Winnipeg’s largest restaurant ever: Bloomindales Brazilian Steakhouse which boasted a whopping 29,000 square feet.

Last year, Arnaldo decided to shift focus and bring his talents full circle when he joined the kitchen as chef at the renowned Gus & Tony’s at the Park on Portage Avenue.

“Going from fine to family dining has been a most enjoyable experience. What sets us apart is that we use the freshest ingredients and strive to make all of our dishes from scratch, says Arnaldo.”

Visit Gus & Tony’s at the Park, 2015 Portage Ave., or call 204-414-5508.

STAR METRO Content Solutions

WES CRAVEN

A look back at the work of the man who brought us Freddy Krueger

Chris Alexander
Metro Life

In 1984 Wes Craven gave the world Freddy Krueger in A Nightmare on Elm Street. ALL PHOTOS: HANDOUT

The cult of Craven

The lights have dimmed on the world of horror as fans worldwide mourn the passing of one of their heroes: Wes Craven, an icon of contemporary genre filmmaking lost his battle with brain cancer this past Sunday, leaving behind a four-decade legacy of boundary-pushing cinema.

And yet despite his bloody, often perverse resumé (the director started making hardcore pornography before turning his talents to making such still-shocking, confrontation pictures as The Last House on The Left and The Hills Have Eyes), Craven was the gentleman of the genre; a kind and sophisticated human being whose work almost always was alive with lofty ideas, dark humour and slick style.

While some of Craven's films were more successful in defining the parameters of horror history than others, all of his work maintained some level of interest; all of his work mattered.

Metro takes a brief look at some of Craven's most memorable (and not so memorable) works.

Essential Wes

The Hills Have Eyes (1977): This brutal survivalist horror film took its cues from both Deliverance and The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, but emerged as something new: a violent, domestic tragedy by way of sun-baked Spaghetti Western. Craven's first true masterpiece.

A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984): What can be said about this landmark, oft-sequelized slasher shocker that hasn't already been said? ANOES remains a jet black, hallucinatory landmark, ground zero for Craven's deranged, razor-gloved horror anti-hero Freddy Krueger…not to mention the movie that gave us Johnny Depp.

New Nightmare (1994): After having his "baby" turned into a beaten down cartoon, Craven reclaimed Freddy for this mind-bending, self-referential satire that sent up the Elm Street series, while also serving as a genuinely affecting horror film in its own right, one whose tone laid the foundation for…

Scream (1996): Writer Kevin Williamson's snappy script became the salvation for '90s horror at the hands of Craven, whose vigorous directing zapped this "meta" slasher movie to gory, goofy and deliriously clever (almost too clever, according to some critics). After the success of Scream, the genre bolted back to life and never looked back.

Near-Classic Craven

The Serpent and the Rainbow (1988): Craven's stylish attempt to film Wade Davis' popular memoir of black magic and zombies in the fringes of Haiti should have been better than it was. Sophisticated and filled with terrifying imagery, the movie gets bogged down in trying to be a commercial '80s horror film and loses steam towards the finale.

The People Under the Stairs (1991): This maniacal socio-political horror comedy mind-bender is jam-packed with oddball action and palpable shocks. But its over-reliance on smartass humour works against its darker ideas and the movie falls apart at the climax.

Fascinating Failures

The Hills Have Eyes Part 2 (1985): Craven made this one on the cheap, quickly, following ANOES's success and it's a legendary misstep. In it, the survivor of the original shocker returns to the desert with his dog, only to find more cannibal mutants. Said dog famously has a ludicrous flashback, an excuse for Craven to pad the films' running time with footage from the first film.

Deadly Friend (1986): A deeply strange, hilariously '80s rethink of the Frankenstein story by way of a sort of John Hughes-ish teen romance that sees the girl next door (Kristy Swanson) rebuilt as a vengeful zombie robot. Terminally goofy but so out there that it sort of stands alone.

Here's to Wes Craven. Gone…but never, ever forgotten.

The Hills Have Eyes

Deadly Friend

The People Under The Stairs

Scream

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Your essential daily news

Where is the love? Vegas weddings down 37% over past decade; economy, notoriety cited

Cape Breton's new headliner

Cabot Cliffs sweeps along oceanside bluffs just to the north of Inverness. PHOTOS COURTESY CABOT LINKS

NOVA SCOTIA

Cabot Cliffs adds to island's world-famous golf reputation

Brian Kendall
canadiangolftraveller.com

Cape Breton has always punched above its weight among Canadian golf destinations. But the early rave reviews for Cabot Cliffs, the island's wildly anticipated new course, seems almost an excess of good fortune.

Set on soaring oceanside bluffs just outside the town of Inverness, Cabot Cliffs is the sister course of Cabot Links, a world-renowned seaside links that instantly became a flagship for the Canadian golf industry when it launched in 2011.

But Cabot Cliffs might be even more spectacular. No fewer than eight holes offer endless views of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Especially unforgettable is the 16th, a par three chiselled into a jagged cliff. The inland holes sweep through sculpted dunes and woodlands before returning to the sea.

Designed by Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw, golf's hottest design team, Cabot Cliffs is already being compared to Pebble Beach, Cypress Point and several more of the world's most dramatically beautiful courses.

Cape Breton, a Nova Scotia island of charming villages and panoramic vistas along the Cabot Trail, has long ranked among Canada's top golf destinations. Located in the quiet north shore community of Ingonish is Highlands Links, a Stanley Thompson-designed masterpiece that has anchored Maritimes golf since 1941. Rounding out a strong roster are Bell Bay Golf Club, The Lakes Golf Club and Le Portage Golf Club.

> **Golf has become as essential to the fabric of life in Inverness as it is in Scotland's St. Andrews.**

Clifftop drama: the signature par-three 16th at Cabot Cliffs.

Golf has become the lifeblood of local tourism. Before the opening of Cabot Links and the quietly elegant Cabot Links Lodge, Inverness was a hardscrabble former coal mining town where the big attractions were salmon fishing on the Margaree River and the twice-weekly harness races at Inverness Raceway. Townspeople also boast that their beach offers the warmest ocean waters north of the Carolinas.

Today, stylish new houses are under construction, real-estate prices are climbing, and the tired-looking main street is being given a facelift.

With tourists arriving from around the world, golf has become as essential to the fabric of life in Inverness as it is in Scotland's St. Andrews.

The original course, Cabot Links, is set just beyond the beach in the heart of town. Glimpses of the green and rumpled links are visible from almost everywhere in Inverness. A long public boardwalk extends between the beach and the fairways closest to the sea, enabling strollers to feel a part of the action.

And now, just to the north of town, Cabot Cliffs is welcoming golfers for preview rounds before its official launch next spring.

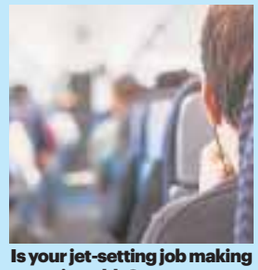
How lucky can Cape Breton get?

TRAVEL NOTES NEW GATES, BAD BUSINESS AND RUNNING NORTH KOREA

Sunspot expansion
Antigua and Barbuda recently doubled the capacity of its V.C. Bird International Airport with a new terminal, one of the most modern in the Caribbean. The $130-million-plus green-energy building will offer more of everything, including expedited access to the twin-island nation's 365 beaches, three VIP lounges and a pet restroom. Go to VisitAntiguaBarbuda.com.

Jabberwock Beach, Antigua and Barbuda. CONTRIBUTED

Travel trend
Frequent flyers beware: A recent study says business travel may be harder on you than you think. Your glam job jetting around is costing you physically (jet lag and fatigue, airplane food, radiation), emotionally (missing your family/spouse), psychologically (you may be addicted to "hypermobility") and socially (friends never know when you're around, so they don't call).



Is your jet-setting job making you miserable? PEXELS.COM

North Korea marathon
Intrepid Travel added North Korea to its roster last week, launching a Pyongyang Marathon Expedition set for next April. Travellers participate in the city's full- or half-marathon, or 10-km run, followed by a week of guided tours of landmarks such as the demilitarized zone, Mount Myohyang and the city of Pyongsong. From $3,130. Visit IntrepidTravel.com. DOUG WALLACE

More than 650 internationals ran in the Pyongyang Marathon last year. CONTRIBUTED

The Skwachàys Lodge in Vancouver. COURTESY TOURISM VANCOUVER

Accommodations with a side of art

MORE THAN HOTELS

Where to find unique stays among murals, ice sculptures

ON THE MOVE

Loren Christie

If you are a culture vulture who prefers hotels that offer more than just bed and breakfast, consider staying at one of the following purveyors of the arts.

Cosy, with cocktails

With only 19 guest rooms, Toronto's Drake Hotel still manages to be the west end's epicentre of cool. From the hotel's inception, the promotion and sharing of art was always part of the guest experience.

There are site-specific installations throughout the hotel from conceptual installations to murals to kinetic sculptures. The collection is grounded in contemporary Canadian art with works by notable artists such as Ken Lum, Isabelle Hayeur and Evan Penny. The cocktail list is pretty memorable, too!

Aboriginal art

Opened in the fall of 2014, the 18-room boutique Skwachàys Lodge in Vancouver is perfect for people interested in British Columbia's aboriginal art scene. Six of the city's top hotel designers worked with six First Nations artists to create 18 unique art installations, one for each guest room. The hotel also features an artists' workshop, traditional smudge room and sweat lodge and is crowned by a rooftop totem pole that reaches high above the city skyline.

Owned by the Vancouver Native Housing Society, 100 per cent of the hotel's profits go toward providing safe and affordable housing for Vancouver's urban aboriginal population.

Keeping cool

The Hôtel de Glace outside of Quebec City is the only ice hotel in North America and, despite lacking some creature comforts (only a pillow and medium-sized mattress in the rooms), is a breathtaking work of art. Built over a six-week period and open only during the winter months, the hotel is redesigned every year by a combination of tradesmen and skilled artisans.

This past year's theme of space and time was represented in frozen sculptures of everything from a Japanese tea ceremony to the lunar landing, carved into the walls of the hotel. This year's theme will be announced in December.

Contemporary in N.Z.

If you are travelling internationally, a personal favourite of mine is the Museum Art Hotel in Wellington, New Zealand.

This 165-room European-inspired boutique hotel is perfectly situated in the city centre, opposite the city's stunning harbour and Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum.

Although one could endlessly people-watch the city's hipsters and trendsetters who frequent the hotel's Hippopotamus restaurant and bar, I could not take my eyes off the art.

Owner Chris Parkin showcases more than 100 ceramics, paintings and other contemporary pieces, like a limited-edition MV Agusta motorcycle, throughout the hotel.

NOT A TOURIST | A letter from Mark Stachiew in Germany

Hockey night in Frankfurt

Do you want to meet local people when you travel? Here's a tip: Attend a sporting event. You'll sit with thousands of them and the ones seated next to you are happy to talk, especially if you're rooting for the home team.

I've seen NHL games in several North American cities and met plenty of local fans, but few of them could top the enthusiasm I saw at a hockey game in Frankfurt. Yes, that Frankfurt, the one in Germany.

While soccer is king in Germany, the country has a professional hockey league known as the Deutsche Eishockey Liga. While the calibre of play in the DEL may not be up to NHL levels, it is plenty competitive and highly entertaining.

In Frankfurt, the fans cheer for the Löwen, or Lions, a team that plays at the Eissporthalle Frankfurt in the second tier of the DEL. There wasn't a moment during the game when fans weren't waving flags, clapping, banging drums and chanting songs. They only paused between periods in order to soothe their hoarse throats with generous portions of German beer while eating fistfuls of sausages and pretzels.

In many ways, it seemed that a horde of rabid soccer fans had been transported to a hockey rink, superimposing their rituals on a hockey game. Most wore the black, white and orange colours of the home team, but many sported NHL sweaters of various vintages or those of other European teams.

The opposition that night was the Dresdner Eislöwen. It was a back-and-forth affair that the visitors won 6-4, but even if the hometown fans didn't go home happy, I did because I knew that the sport Canadians love is in good hands in Germany.

Fans in Frankfurt wave flags, bang drums and hold sparklers aloft during a pre-game ceremony that is as epic as a Wagnerian opera. MARK STACHIEW/FOR METRO

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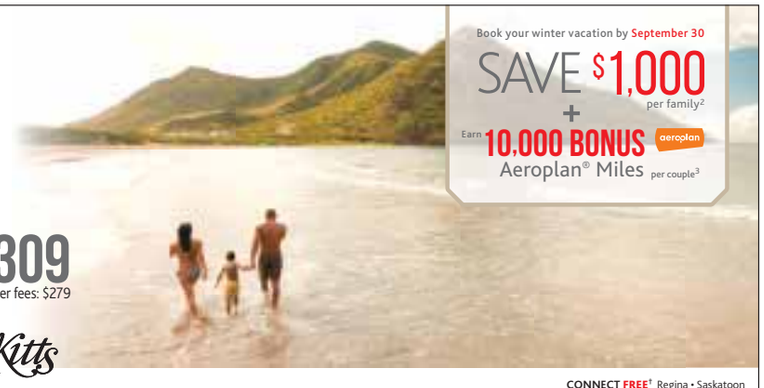

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Sprinter Andre De Grasse is forgoing estimated six-figure endorsement deals to return to USC for his senior year

MVP chants grow louder

MLB

Donaldson leads AL in RBIs, runs, slugging pct.

.385

In 149 plate appearances with runners in scoring position, Donaldson is hitting .385 to Trout's .347.

When Josh Donaldson steps to the plate at Rogers Centre and the strains of Phil Collins' In the Air Tonight fade out, the crowd noise fills in with chants of "M-V-P! M-V-P!"

Sometimes it's just a few hundred fans, until the star Blue Jays slugger hits a home run and some 40,000 more join the call.

"I try not to listen to it too much, but it's nice," Donaldson said. "Obviously all year the fans have really supported me. So far this year it's kind of worked out, and we'll see how it goes."

To say it has "worked out" is the understatement of the year from the third baseman, a front-runner to be the American League's Most Valuable Player. Donaldson leads the league with a .589 slugging percentage, 111 runs batted in, 304 total bases and 104 runs scored.

He has passed and even lapped defending champion Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels by being at the forefront of the Blue Jays' surge into first place.

"I don't think we're anywhere close to where we're at without him," starting pitcher Mark Buehrle said. "If he doesn't win, I'd be disappointed."

Donaldson would be the first player in 31 years to win AL MVP honours after being traded prior to Opening Day. Toronto general manager Alex Anthopoulos pulled off the steal of the off-season by acquiring Donaldson from the Oakland Athletics for oft-injured third baseman Brett Lawrie.

The 29-year-old hit 29 home runs last season and 24 in 2013. Coming off an all-star appearance, expectations were that Donaldson would be an upgrade, but few could have predicted this.

"Two years in Oakland he had good years, but not this good," Buehrle said. "If somebody says they thought he was going to have this good of a year, I think they're crazy."

Donaldson, who hits second ahead of power righties Jose Bautista and Edwin Encarnacion in baseball's most feared and productive lineup, is batting a career-best .304 and already has 36 home runs with 29 games left.

Using the wins above replacement stat, which calculates value to a team if replaced by a bench player or minor-leaguer, Donaldson's 7.64 trails only Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Zack Greinke and Washington Nationals outfielder Bryce Harper.

"He's having a career year," Toronto starter Marco Estrada said. "What he brings on the field is everything. He's been our best hitter, his defence is incredible and he brings a lot of energy to the clubhouse. I'm glad he's on our side."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fans have firmly gotten behind the first-year Blue Jay.
TONY GUTIERREZ/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Josh Donaldson is batting a career-best .304 with 36 home runs with 29 games left.
STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GOLDEYES

Fish bats wake up against Canaries

The Winnipeg Goldeyes' bats finally started popping Thursday night, beating the Sioux Falls Canaries 6-2 in front of 5,593 fans enjoying a warm and calm night at Shaw Park.

The victory snapped Winnipeg's three-game slide where they were outscored 17-4 in losses to the visiting Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks and the Canaries.

Putting the Canaries to rest, a three-run eighth-inning dagger where Goldeyes third baseman Josh Mazzola crushed a two-out dart to left-centre to cash in a pair of runs.

Shortstop Casio Grider's two-run single in the second inning opened the scoring and held Winnipeg in front for the majority of the game.

A Mazzola throwing error followed by a wild pitch in the seventh produced Sioux Falls' two runs, but Goldeyes starter Kyle Anderson still earned the victory (5-6, 4.77 ERA) through 6-1/3 innings of work. Reliever Jailen Peguiro notched his 16th save of the season while cleaning up late in the eighth and ninth.

The Fish wrap their four-game set with Sioux Falls on Friday night as they look for the series split. After the Canaries depart, Winnipeg finishes their regular season with three at home against the Lincoln Saltdogs, beginning Saturday.

DARRIN BAUMING/FOR METRO

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Andy Murray lunges to return a shot to Adrian Mannarino on Thursday in New York. CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gritty Murray survives second-round scare

U.S. OPEN

Scot digs deep after France's Mannarino takes 2-set lead

Before they stepped on court, there was nothing to suggest Andy Murray would have any trouble against Adrian Mannarino in the U.S. Open's second round.

Murray, after all, is seeded No. 3, owns two major championships including one at Flushing Meadows in 2012, and had reached at least the quarterfinals at the last 18 Grand Slam tournaments he'd entered. Mannarino, meanwhile, is ranked 35th, has never won a tour-level title, and only three times in his career has even managed to win more than one match at a major.

So it certainly came as a surprise when, in Thursday's very first game in Arthur Ashe Stadium, Mannarino broke Murray. About an hour later, Mannarino slammed an overhead winner to grab the first set. And 45 minutes after that, a serve-and-volley winner gave the Frenchman the second set, too.

Murray is nothing if not resilient, though. Despite looking as if he might be ready to wilt on another steamy day at Flushing Meadows, Murray put together his eighth career comeback from a two-set deficit and beat Mannarino 5-7, 4-6, 6-1, 6-3, 6-1.

14

Murray committed just 14 unforced errors in the final three sets — he made 21 in the first two.

It gave Murray his 35th consecutive victory in a second-round Grand Slam match. "He was looking for his rhythm," Mannarino said, "and then I think that finally he found it."

Roger Federer had his rhythm from the start, compiling a 46-8 edge in winners while beating Steve Darcis of Belgium 6-1, 6-2, 6-1.

Against Murray, Mannarino, a lefty, delivered 12 of the match's first 14 forehand winners and repeatedly found success with drop shots.

But his play eventually dipped, while Murray really cleaned up his own act after the rough start: He went from making 21 unforced errors in the first two sets to only 14 the rest of the way.

"He has such an unorthodox game, I didn't really feel that comfortable at many points," Murray said. "But I was happy, very happy, with the way I fought through that, finished the match stronger than him." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL — 'DEFLATEGATE'

Brady suspension lifted by judge

Tom Brady learned Thursday he will start the season on the field after a judge lifted the league's four-game suspension of the star quarterback for a scandal over deflated footballs, saying he was treated unfairly by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. The league quickly appealed.

U.S. District Judge Richard M. Berman criticized Goodell for dispensing "his own brand of industrial justice" as he found multiple reasons to reject the suspension one week before New England's Sept. 10 opener against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

The Super Bowl MVP has insisted he played no role in a conspiracy to deflate footballs below the allowable limit at last season's AFC championship game, a 45-7 rout of the Indianapolis Colts.

The judge cited "several significant legal deficiencies" in the league's handling of the controversy, including no advanced notice of potential penalties, a refusal to produce a key witness and the apparent first-ever discipline of a player based on a finding of "general awareness" of someone else's wrongdoing.

"Because there was no notice of a four-game suspension in the circumstances presented here, Commissioner Goodell may be said to have 'dispensed his own brand of industrial justice,"' Berman wrote, partially citing wording from a previous case.

Goodell said it was necessary to appeal "to uphold the collectively bargained responsibility to protect the integrity of the game." He called the need to secure the game's competitive fairness "a paramount principle." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tom Brady GETTY IMAGES

Roger Goodell GETTY IMAGES

SOCCER

Canada faces lowly Belize in World Cup qualifier

Canadian coach Benito Floro will be looking to avoid blundering against Belize as his team opens a home-and-away World Cup qualifying series Friday at Toronto's BMO Field.

On the surface, it should be smooth sailing. British bookmaker William Hill has Belize as a 12-1 underdog.

Canada is ranked 102nd in the world while Belize — whose population is around 350,000 — is No. 128. The Canadian men dispatched the Jaguars 8-0 on aggregate when they met in a similar qualifying tie in 2004. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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OMG: SLAVE TRADE GAME EDITED AFTER OUTRAGE

An educational video game has been edited following a social media backlash over a scene depicting slaves being packed into a ship.

The creators of Playing History: Slave Trade removed a level Monday that featured black slave characters being dropped into a ship similar to the video game Tetris.

"Apologies to people who were offended by us using game mechanics to underline the point of how inhumane slavery was," read a statement posted on the game's page on Steam, an online store. "The goal was to enlighten and educate people — not to get sidetracked discussing a small 15-second part of the game."

The scene was also removed from the official trailer for the title, which was originally released by Copenhagen-based developer Serious Games Interactive in 2013.

The game captured attention last week when it went on sale on Steam and was promptly chastised on social media for trivializing slavery with the stacking segment. Serious Games founder Simon Egenfeldt-Nielsen took to Twitter to defend Slave Trade against the controversy before deleting his account Tuesday. He could not be immediately reached for comment.

Slave Trade, which is intended to teach children ages 11 to 14 about slavery in the 18th century, casts players for most of the game as a young slave steward named Putij, who serves on a ship crossing the Atlantic Ocean. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Someone will turn up the pressure on you today but you refuse to be beaten. There is a determination about Aries that makes you a formidable enemy. The more others attack the more you will dig in your heels.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Every suggestion you make lately seems to be met with disapproval. You won't change their attitude, so you might as well go off by yourself and do your own thing.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Something dramatic is likely to happen either to you directly or to others in such a way that it affects you as well. Keep your wits about you and no harm will come.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Your beliefs and opinions will come under fire today and there may be a very good reason for it. Could it be that some of your ideas went out of fashion years ago? Maybe it's time to bring yourself more up to date.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You have huge responsibilities and you may be tempted to run away from them. But the only way to lessen the burden of your responsibilities is to fulfill them to the letter.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
If you like a challenge then you will enjoy what happens today. No matter how tough the task you face, or how strong the opposition, you must not back down.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You must trust your instincts even if everyone else seems to be moving in a different direction. Sometimes logic is not the best guide and sometimes it pays not to follow the herd.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Be friendly with everyone you meet today. Some people will be less than friendly in return but it's about how you choose to behave, not how a minority of idiots choose to react.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There can be no more playing around — you must make a decision and you must make it now. It won't be easy and not everyone will approve, but if you don't act now you may never get the chance.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
It might be unwise to speak your mind today, even if you are in the right and someone else is in the wrong. You are going to have to work closely with this person in the future, so think before you speak.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Cosmic activity in the wealth area of your chart means you need to tighten your belt now so you can enjoy the benefits later on. The less you spend today the more cash will be available to spend tomorrow.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Confrontation is likely today. Resist the urge to pull rank on people you work with, because they will get back at you.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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RECIPE Mediterranean Burger with Tzatziki and Arugula

EAT LIGHT AT HOME

Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
@rosereisman

Tzatziki is a Greek sauce made from strained yogurt and mixed with cucumbers, garlic, salt, olive oil and lemon juice.

Serves 4

Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients
Burger
- 1 lb ground lean beef
- 3 Tbsp diced onions
- 1/4 cup bread crumbs
- 3 Tbsp barbecue sauce
- 1 1/2 tsp garlic
- Salt and pepper
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp dried basil

Garnish
- 1/4 cup tzatziki (store-bought)
- 1 oz crumbled feta
- Tomato slices
- Cucumber slices
- Arugula

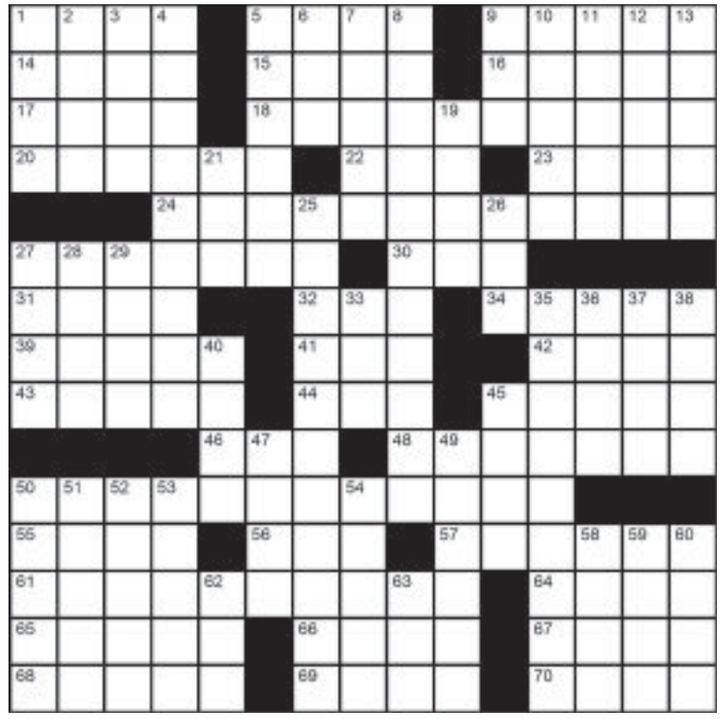
Directions
1. In a bowl, combine burger ingredients, mix well. Form into four burgers.
2. Grill or bake burgers at 400 F for approximately 10 to 12 minutes, or until temperature reaches 160 F.
3. Garnish with tzatziki, feta, tomato, cucumber and arugula.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 230
- Protein 26 g
- Carbohydrates 10 g
- Fibre 1 g
- Total fat 8 g
- Saturated fat 3 g
- Cholesterol 110 mg
- Sodium 380 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Mr. Cumming
5. Embassy worker, e.g.
9. Lathers
14. Shark type
15. "..._ _ tete, Alouette..."
16. 'The Hub' of Nova Scotia
17. Send forth
18. Beheld: 3 wds.
20. "Citizen Kane" (1941) estate
22. Big Apple newspaper, briefly
23. Sparkling wine city of Italy
24. Lotto Max's jackpot cap introduced this summer: 2 wds.
27. Environs
30. Do movies
31. Tennis great Mr. Nastase
32. US television station
34. Couches
39. Van _ & Arpels (Jewellery house)
41. Do movie soundtrack work
42. Farewell, to Catullus
43. Neutral tone
44. Seedy sandwich selection
45. Curt
46. 1977 Steely Dan album
48. Victoria, The _ Capital of British Columbia
50. Song from Hair co-written by Canada's very own Galt MacDermot: 4 wds.
55. "Away!"
56. L'Isle-_-Coudres, Quebec
57. Apply hairspray
61. Tweety's co-star Sylvester, for one: 2 wds.
64. "Right back _ _!" (Likewise)
65. Matthew McConaughey's wife Camila
66. Montreal-born singer Mr. Vannelli
67. "Jenny _": Paul McCartney ballad
68. 'Gang' suffixes (Criminals)
69. Canadian writer Mr. Martel
70. NASDAQ rival

DOWN
1. Charge card, e.g.
2. Priest of Tibet
3. Alike
4. Awake, basically: 2 wds.
5. Sumptuous
6. "Give _ _ rest already!"
7. _†the†Elder (Roman author of the encyclopedia Naturalis Historia)
8. Shakespeare... She who exclaimed "Out, damn'd spot! out, I say!": 2 wds.
9. Farm enclosure
10. L'_ (Cosmetics brand)
11. Also, in Abitibi
12. Prefix to 'type' (Mock-up)
13. _-_-law (Family member)
19. 'Synth' suffix
21. Nero's 502
25. Mode of transport in Churchill, Manitoba for tourists viewing polar bears: 2 wds.
26. Fire dept. ranks
27. Ancient Scot
28. "The Producers" (2005) role
29. Andre _ (Dutch violinist/conductor)
33. Purchase
35. Like a bank account without sufficient funds
36. 'Yukon's Best Kept Secret' town
37. To boot
38. Feel
40. Achievement
45. Baseball field covering
47. Comic actress Ms. Cusack
49. Songstress Sheena
50. "Como _?" = "How are you?" in Spanish
51. Grind to _ _
52. Figure out
53. Oxen harness maker, say
54. _-_ _ _ agent (Former employee of The Company)
58. Macy Gray hit: 2 wds.
59. Nautical ropes
60. "Titanic" (1997) star Billy
62. Mag. edition
63. Ms. Jillian

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